

Overview

Grants.gov will simplify the grants management process, and create a centralized, online process to find and apply for over 600 grant programs from the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov will streamline the process of awarding \$360+ billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits and other organizations. This program is one of the 24 Federal cross-agency E-Government initiatives focused on improving access to services via the Internet. The vision for Grants.gov is to produce a simple, unified source to electronically find, apply, and manage grant opportunities. Additionally, the Grants.gov initiative will facilitate efficient operations for Federal grant agencies and the grant community.

“Agencies will allow applicants for Federal grants to apply for and ultimately manage grant funds online through a common web site, simplifying grants management and eliminating redundancies...”

(The President’s FY 2002 Management Agenda)

Standardizing Federal grant management activities is a priority for the Administration and Congress, as evidenced by Public Law 106-107, legislation that mandates streamlining and improved accountability for Federal grants, and related references in the President’s Management Agenda.

Benefits

Grants.gov will serve as the common face for Federal grant program information and applications. Key benefits include:

- A single source for finding grant opportunities, helping applicants locate and learn more about funding opportunities in a standardized manner
- A single, secure and reliable source for applying for Federal Grants online, simplifying the grant application process and reducing paperwork

Grants.gov will provide a unified interface for all agencies to announce their grant opportunities, and for all potential grantees to find and apply for grants. Grants.gov simplifies the entire application process, while also creating avenues for consolidation and best practices within each grant-making agency.

Progress and Next Steps

The first stage of Grants.gov was a successful pilot that enabled participating grantors to post and grant seekers to search for grant opportunities. Each Federal grant-making agency will be posting all of their competitive grant opportunities to Grants.gov by October 1, 2003. Also in October, the Grants.gov team will deploy a simple, unified application to enable applicants to apply for these grants online. Here’s how it works: a grant seeker from an organization, for instance, visits the Grants.gov website to search for grant opportunities. Once a match is found, the organization downloads an electronic application to apply for the grant. The organization would complete the application and then submit it through the Grants.gov site. The application is time stamped and the appropriate Federal agency has immediate access to it. The agency will receive the application, sending confirmation back to the applicant through Grants.gov. Processing will be accelerated by avoiding the handling of paper applications.

In 2004, the focus will shift to rolling out the management and reporting functions of the Grants.gov system. Additional tools will be available to assist the grant community in moving through the grants lifecycle, and will streamline and improve the grants application process.

Participants

All grant-making agencies will participate in Grants.gov over time. The Department of Health and Human Services, managing partner for the Grants.gov program, is supported by 10 additional “partner” agencies. A list of these agencies can be found on the Grants.gov web site, at www.grants.gov.

The Grants.gov team is also working closely with the grant community and organizations that represent them, to facilitate delivery of a system that will meet their needs. We are in close contact with the Council of State Governments, the National Council for Nonprofit Associations, and the Federal Demonstration Partnership, to name just a few.

Questions?

Visit www.grants.gov to access past and current materials on the Grants.gov program or e-mail your questions to info@grants.gov.